

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 9 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194) in view of Hanson (US Patent 6,148,346). Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo in view of Hansen and further in view of Kitagawa et al. (US Patent 5,799,206) ("Kitagawa"). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo in view of Hanson and further in view of Ogishima (US Publ. 2002/0083001). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8 and 9 and with respect to these claims, and their dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a remote printing server which receives data from a client computer via a local network and sends data over a global network so as to print the data on a remote printer which does not exist in the local network, comprising: print response means for performing a print control protocol for a local printer in the local network so that the client computer can recognize said remote printing server as a local printer in the local network, receiving print data from the client computer and performing a print completion response to the client computer thereby completing a print process of the print data locally between the client computer and said remote printing server before the received print data is converted into a transferrable format and transferred to the remote printer; (support shown in page 7, lines 4 to 13; page 7, line 23 to page 8, line 4; page 8, line 12 to page 9, line 5 of the originally filed application) spooling means for spooling the print data received by said print response means in a spooling area in said remote printing server; (support shown in page 8, lines 5 to 11 of the originally filed application) transferring data conversion means for converting the print data

spooled by said spooling means into the transferable format in which the print data can be transferred to the remote printer over the global network using a predetermined transfer protocol; and remote transfer means for transferring the print data converted into the transferable format by said transferring data conversion means to the remote printer over the global network using the predetermined transfer protocol. Claims 8 and 9 have been similarly amended. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The present invention as recited in Applicant's amended independent claim 1 is directed to a remote printing server which is characterized in that a print completion response is provided to a client computer thereby completing the print process that is occurring locally between the client computer and a remote printing server before the received print data is converted into a transferable format and transferred to the remote printer. This is discussed in the present application at least on page 7, line 23 to page 8, line 5. Moreover, as discussed in the present application on page 32, line 12 to page 33, line 7, the present invention, as recited in Applicant's amended claim 1, is able to complete the local print process by providing an appropriate instruction, by indicating that the print job has been completed, to the client computer which in turn beneficially avoids delays and avoids problems at the local client computer which otherwise would result from delays in printing that may result from communication delays or other problems that are common in remote printing systems. As illustrated below, these features are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Moreover, none of the cited art particularly solves or prevents problems that often are encountered in remote printing systems by instructing a client computer that a print job is complete before that print job is properly formatted and subsequently supplied to a remote system that in turn carries out the print job.

Lobiondo discloses a distributed printing system that allows a user located at any location in a network to control printing operations, wherein the system among other things provides feedback to the client computer about the print job. As discussed in col. 6, lines 8-16 of this cited reference, the user's computer is informed that a print job is able to be completed, the time at which the print job will be completed, or that the system is unable to complete the print job within the designated time constraint, if any.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has asserted that Lobiondo discloses certain features previously recited in Applicant's claim 1 including the previously recited feature of "performing a response to the client computer so that a print process of the print data can be completed locally in the client computer before the received print data is spooled in a spooling area in said remote printing server" (emphasis added) and the Examiner referred to Lobiondo col. 6, line 8-13 and lines 26-29 for allegedly disclosing such features (Office Action, page 2, par. 2; and page 4, lines 11-19).

As indicated above, Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention and particularly is amended to recite "performing a print completion response to the client computer thereby completing a print process of the print data locally between the client computer and said remote printing server before the received print data is converted into a transferrable format and transferred to the remote printer." Hence, in accordance with the present invention, the client computer is instructed that the print process is complete before the print job is appropriately converted into a transferrable format and then transferred to the remote printer. Lobiondo operates quite differently and clearly does NOT provide such a "print completion response" to the client computer before the print job is converted and then transferred to the remote printer. In fact, Lobiondo does not even suggest providing a "print

completion response" to the client computer at any time until after the print job is indeed complete. Col. 6, lines 25-35 of Lobiondo, repeated below and referenced by the Examiner, explains exactly what information the system provides to the client (user) computer:

"Depending on the job type, certain criteria is requested including selection of media format, size, number of copies, completion time, etc. Once this information is entered, the print job data can be input into the system and sent to a common print spooler 60. Upon analysis of available printers and the entered criteria, the scheduler 50 schedules one or more printers 10 for printing of the job. Upon determination of a printing scheme, the scheduler 50 sends confirmation back to the user that the job is either being printed at one or more locations, will be printed at a determined location at a later time, or cannot meet the entered criteria and as such cannot print the job. The user may in the last case, be requested by the scheduler 50 to enter a later completion time, change any other criteria which can allow the job to be completed or to cancel the job. If the job can be printed at one or more non-selected locations, the user may allow printing at these locations such that the job can proceed to completion."

(emphasis added).

First, the above paragraph clearly explains that the print job is sent to a common print spooler before any information is sent back to the user's computer. Hence, the print job must be converted to a transferrable format and then transferred before any information is supplied back to the user's computer.

Second, the above paragraph clearly explains that the information that is supplied back to the user's computer is either (1) the job is being printed at a certain location or locations; (2) the print job will be printed at a later time; or (3) the print job cannot be carried out. Quite different from the present invention, an indication that a job is "being printed" in Lobiondo is distinctly different from the present invention's performing a print completion response so that the "print process" between the client computer and the remote server is completed. In other words, Lobiondo provides only status information to the client computer about the status of a print job and, thus, Lobiondo lacks any discussion or suggestion whatsoever of the creation and

transmission to that client computer of a “print completion response” before the print job is properly formatted for transmission and then transmitted to the remote printer.

Accordingly, Lobiondo does not disclose the above-discussed features of Applicant’s claimed invention, as recited in amended claim 1.

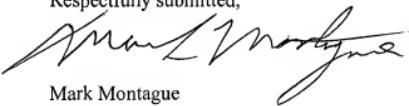
Hanson is directed to a dynamic device driver and discloses that data received from a client through a LAN is transmitted from a server through the Internet. This cited reference, however, neither discloses nor suggests the above-discussed features of Applicant’s claimed invention.

Therefore, neither Lobiondo nor Hanson discloses the above-described features of Applicant’s independent claim 1. Hence, Applicant’s amended claim 1, and Applicant’s amended independent claims 8 and 9, since they disclose such features, and their dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the combination of Lobiondo and Hanson. In addition, Kitagawa and Ogishima, which were cited against the dependent claims and which respectively disclose that when a print error occurs a host computer performs an error recovery process such as retransmission of a print job and that the request data and the print data are encrypted before being transmitted, add nothing to the other cited references to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application and claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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